

From: "DOEPressOffice" <DOEPressOffice@FLDOE.org>
To:
Date: 11/10/2011 09:33 AM
Subject: FLORIDA DIPLOMA PROGRAM HONORS VETERANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OFFICE

CONTACT: DOE PRESS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

(850) 245-0413

FLORIDA DIPLOMA PROGRAM HONORS VETERANS

~ Credential pays tribute to honorably discharged military ~

TALLAHASSEE - Florida veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War who joined the military before completing high school can obtain their high school diploma thanks to the Florida Veteran Diploma Program sponsored by the Florida Department of Education in partnership with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"As our nation pays homage to past and current members of the military, I am proud that we can recognize our distinguished military veterans by granting them a high school diploma," said Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson. "Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our freedoms and this is but a small token of appreciation for their courage and sacrifice at a time when our country needed them."

"Florida is the most veteran-friendly state in the nation," said Mike Prendergast, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. "As we honor Florida's more than 1.6 million veterans on Veterans Day, we salute the Department of Education for remembering the sacrifices of our wartime veterans through this worthwhile program."

Veterans who were honorably discharged, are current residents of Florida, were inducted into military service prior to completing graduation requirements and meet the additional criteria below are eligible for their high school diploma.

World War II veterans:

- Inducted into military service between Sept. 16, 1940, and Dec. 31,

1946

- Started high school between 1937 - 1946
- Scheduled to graduate from high school between 1941 - 1950

Korean Conflict veterans:

- Inducted into military service between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955
- Started high school between 1946 - 1950
- Scheduled to graduate from high school between 1950 - 1954

Vietnam War veterans:

- Inducted into military service during the Vietnam Era between Feb. 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975

The Departments of Education and Veterans' Affairs are available to assist veterans through the application process to obtain their diploma. For more information about the Florida Veteran Diploma Program, visit www.fldoe.org/workforce/veteran-diploma.asp. Interested veterans should contact Gayle Manley with the Dept. of Education at gayle.manley@fldoe.org or by calling (850) 245-9057 or Ed Ortiz with the Florida Dept. of Veterans' Affairs at ortize@fdva.state.fl.us or by calling (727) 319-7400.